

WASH. POST
PAGE A1

WASHINGTON POST
15 April 1987

Marine Guard Is Detained On Suspicion

By Molly Moore
and Bill McAllister
Washington Post Staff Writers

Another Marine assigned to guard U.S. diplomatic posts in the Soviet Union has been detained on suspicion of espionage and administration sources said yesterday there are likely to be new arrests in connection with security breaches at key embassies and consulates.

Three Marines already have been arrested on espionage charges.

In a related move, the U.S. ambassador to Austria ordered five Marine guards to leave the embassy in Vienna and return to the United States for questioning in the government investigation of security lapses, the Defense Department said yesterday.

Four of the Marines ordered home from Vienna are suspected of having had sexual relations with foreign women while on previous assignments in Warsaw Pact countries. The fifth Marine was recalled because of allegations that he violated other embassy security regulations unrelated to the espionage investigation, according to Pentagon spokesman Robert B. Sims.

Administration officials said yesterday that the widening investigation is centered on two dozen Marine guards who either are under suspicion of allowing security breaches or who may be key witnesses in judicial proceedings against those who have been accused. The sources said additional arrests are expected.

As the details of the alleged

security breaches continue to multiply, an internal Navy report charged that the State Department has been lax in its supervision of Marine guards and said the department's rules governing fraternization with foreign nationals are vague and unevenly enforced, according to sources familiar with the document.

Administration officials said yesterday that a Marine guard who served at the Moscow embassy with two other guards who have been charged with espionage is being held at Quantico Marine Base on suspicion of espionage. Sources said the guard, who has been assigned to the embassy in the Brazilian capital of Brasilia since leaving Moscow, is being questioned concerning the allegations but has not been charged.

Two Moscow guards—Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree, 25, and Cpl. Arnold Bracy, 21—as well as a former guard at the Leningrad consulate, Sgt. John J. Weirick, 26, have been charged with espionage. Investigators accused them of allowing Soviet agents into the American

facilities they were assigned to guard. Military documents allege that all three men were seduced by Soviet women into cooperating with the foreign agents.

U.S. Ambassador to Austria Ronald S. Lauder, reacting to the growing security scandal, ordered five of the 22 Marine guards assigned to the compound back to the United States on Sunday, according to Sims. A sixth Vienna embassy guard already had been sent to Quantico to appear as a witness in judicial proceedings involving Lonetree. An Article 32 hearing, the equivalent of a grand jury investigation in a civilian court, will begin today in a closed session at the Marine Corps base, Pentagon officials said.

All six Marine guards at the Leningrad consulate were recalled and ordered replaced last week in what Defense and State department officials called a "precautionary" measure after the arrest of Weirick, the former Leningrad consulate guard.

In the first official report prepared on the security problems since Lonetree was arrested in December, the Navy inspector general said the State Department's

rules on fraternization should be clarified. That study reflects the tension that has grown between the State and Defense departments as a result of the scandals. Although the Marines are supplied by the Pentagon, they become the responsibility of the State Department once assigned to diplomatic posts.

The Navy report, completed after a two-week inspection of U.S. facilities overseas, recommended closer oversight and supervision of the Marine guards and recommended that the State Department consider randomly using polygraph tests, Sims said yesterday. The study also suggested that the Marine Corps use a review board "to determine the suitability of each Marine seeking assignment to security guard duty," he said.

The findings in the Navy report did not surprise some former diplomats. "There always been an inherent organization weakness in the management of the Marine detachment," said David D. Newsom, undersecretary of state for political affairs in the Carter administration.

Newsom said he found that the regional Marine officer, charged with supervising the detachments in one region, visited them infrequently and often would become defensive when asked by an ambassador to move a guard.